KS03:081

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Contact: Terri Carbaugh

Doug Stone 916/653-6575

Secretary of State Urges Citizens to 'Help Make Democracy Work'

Volunteer Poll Workers Needed for October 7 Special Election

SAN FRANCISCO --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today asked registered voters in local communities to volunteer as poll workers during the upcoming special election on October 7.

"Elections are not here for the candidates, the pollsters or the political consultants, they are held for voters," Shelley said. "It's democracy in action. Probably the most crucial element to a successful election is volunteer poll workers.

"On a normal Election Day there will be an army of more than 100,000 volunteers that are needed to assist voters. This is an unexpected, special election. Turnout may be higher than normal and a lot of first-time voters may show up. We need dedicated people from each community to help us, and to help their neighbors, so that we have a successful election."

Shelley urged those interested in volunteering to contact their Registrar of Voters for more information about how they can help. Persons who are bilingual and can read and speak fluently in English and a second language are especially encouraged to volunteer.

To volunteer, contact the San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters at (209) 468-2892. On the Internet, information about volunteering to be a poll worker is at www.co.san-joaquin.ca.us/elect/pollworker.htm. The office is located at 212 N. San Joaquin Street in Stockton.